

April 22, 2013

**CalWORKs Program Guide Letter No. 286**

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**Subject**            **CalWORKs SENATE BILL (SB) 1041 EXTENSION OF SHORT TERM CHANGES AND THE NEW YOUNG CHILD EXEMPTION**

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**Effective Date**   January 1, 2013

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**Reference**        All County Letter (ACL) No. 12-72; CalWORKs Program Guide (CPG) Special Notice 03-08 Addendum A.

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**Purpose**            The purpose of this letter is to inform staff of the extension of certain CalWORKs short-term changes, originally enacted by AB X4 4, and a new young child exemption.

Information related to the CW 61 (Authorization to Release Medical Information) effective onset date of medical condition, previously issued via CPG Special Notice 03-08 Addendum A, is being incorporated into section 10-020 A. of the CPG.

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**Background**        SB 1041 extended the current short-term young child exemptions originally enacted by AB X4 4. SB 1041 also created a new one-time young child exemption for a parent or caretaker relative who has primary responsibility for personally providing care to one child from birth through 23 months of age.

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**Summary of Updates**    The following CPG section has been loaded to the CPG online:

CPG Section	Title	Program Updates
<a href="#">10-020 A.</a>	Exemptions from Welfare-To-Work	Added: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• New Young Child Exemption regulations.</li><li>• Medical condition effective onset date clarifications.</li></ul>

Changes to the CPG are noted with **highlighted text**.

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**Extension of the Short-Term Young Child Exemptions (AB X4 4)**

SB 1041 extended the current short-term young child exemptions originally enacted by AB X4 4 for parent or caretaker relative who has primary responsibility for personally providing care to:

- One child who is from 12 months through 23 months of age, or
- At least two children who are under six years of age.

Clients granted these exemptions are not required to participate in WTW and will not have months count against their CalWORKs 48-month time limit **until the client is reengaged** sometime between 2013 and 2015 (more details on reengagement are forthcoming under separate program material).

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**New Young Child Time Limit and WTW Exemption**

SB 1041 created a new one-time young child exemption for a parent or caretaker relative who has primary responsibility for providing care to **one child from birth through 23 months of age**.

- This exemption is an **once-in-a-lifetime option** and is at the discretion of the client. This means that the clients have the option to reserve this exemption for a future child or at a later date for the existing child.
  - For two-parent assistance units meeting this exemption criterion, each parent in the AU must be provided the option to receive this exemption. However only one parent at a time may be granted the exemption. Parents have the option to alternate which parent is exempt.
  - Clients who are granted this exemption:
    - Are not required to participate in WTW.
    - Will not have months count against their CalWORKs 48-month time limit until they no longer meet the criteria for this exemption.
    - Will not have months count against the new WTW 24-Month Time Clock,
    - Can volunteer to participate.
  - Anyone who is exempt under the AB X4 4 should not be offered this exemption until he/she is in the reengagement process.
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**CalFresh Program Impact**

No impact.

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**Medi-Cal Program Impact**

No impact.

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**Child Care  
Program  
Impact**

No impact.

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**Automation  
Impact**

Business Environment Design Strategies (BENDS) 6173-1A is available on the CalWIN intranet, and has instructions for entering the WTW temporary exemptions into the CalWIN system.

Human Service Specialists are required to follow BENDS 6173-1A to process the New Young Child exemption as a short-term implementation strategy.

The BENDS includes two sections:

- The first addresses the entry of the new exemption, 'Child 0-23 months of Age' **and** stop the CalWORKs 48 month time clock.
- The second section provides steps for a WTW exempt but volunteer recipient.

The reason for this process is to provide steps to ensure:

- CalWORKs Time Clock does **not** tick, and
- TANF Time Clock does tick.

CalWIN values have been added to track the cases meeting the new WTW Exemption reasons. Once the new WTW 24 Month Time Clock is automated, the case can automatically track the individuals' Time-On-Aid (TOA).

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**ACCESS  
Impact**

ACCESS Agents will complete the following tasks for recipients who meet the exemption criteria and request to be exempt or to be a volunteer in the WTW program:

- Enter a Case Comment to document the recipient's choice to be exempt or to be a volunteer in WTW; and
  - Inform the caller that the FRC staff will be notified to follow up on the exemption request; and
  - Send an email to the FRC WTW liaison with client's request.
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**Forms Impact**

CW 2186A (12/12) CalWORKs Exemption Request Form has been updated to include the new exemption and is available in CalWIN.

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**Document  
Capture  
Impact**

Due to the fact that the CW 2186A form requires a client's signature, the form is required to be submitted for document capture. The CW 2186A is a known form type in DoReS hence no template is needed.

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**Quality  
Control (QC)  
Impact**

QC will cite the appropriate error when the regulations cited in this program material have not been followed.

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**Director  
Approval**

Handwritten signature of Rick Wanne in blue ink, followed by the date "4-22-13" also in blue ink.

**RICK WANNE, MA, MFT**  
Eligibility Operations Director

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**Manager  
Contact**

CalWORKs Program

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